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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22850 7590 02/19/2008

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

DUONG, THOMAS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2145

DATE MAILED: 02/19/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/684,965

10/10/2000

Yuki Uchida

197849US-28

4230

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM, COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT AND METHOD FOR MANAGING DOCUMENTS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$0	\$0	\$1440	05/19/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

22850 7590 02/19/2008

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/684,965 10/10/2000 Yuki Uchida 197849US-28 4230

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nonprovisional NO \$1440 \$0 \$0 \$1440 05/19/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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DUONG, THOMAS 2145 709-201000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			DUONG, THOMAS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2145	
DATE MAILED: 02/19/2008				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 681 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 681 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/684,965

Examiner

THOMAS DUONG

Applicant(s)

UCHIDA ET AL.

Art Unit

2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to October 31, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-8, 10-14, 16-20, 22-26, 28-32, 34-38, 40, 42-43, 45, 47-48, 50, 54-56, 58-60, 62-64, 66-68, 70-72, and 74-76.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. The Applicants' arguments and amendments filed on October 31, 2007 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. *Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-14, 16-20, 22-26, 28-32, 34-38, 40, 42-43, 45, 47-48, 50, 54-56, 58-60, 62-64, 66-68, 70-72, and 74-76 are allowed. The claims indicated include limitations that the prior arts of record do not appear to teach or render obvious, hence they are allowed.*
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As presented in the previous Office Action, Delano (US006430558B1) teaches of a method for searching "*one or more knowledge databases formed by a combination of databases from a global network ... [including] steps of conducting search queries of content of at least one knowledge database, ranking content search results representative of the relative closeness of a requested search query to a search inputted by at least one user*" (Delano, col.3, lines 28-35). According to Delano, "*the collaborative search engine preferably also includes search content browsing means for browsing the content of the search results, search recommending means, e.g., a recommender, ... for recommending at least one of content providing (including content linking), alternative searching and alternative browsing queries to a user*" (Delano, col.5,

lines 55-61) and presenting the user with the results. Delano anticipates of providing *“additional information or advertising content in the form of text, images, audio, video, or other media can advantageously be attached to content recommendations and notifications according to recommendation submitters, content providers, or other filter criteria”* (Delano, col.2, lines 49-53). In addition, Delano states *“the topics used to index the content in the Knowledge Base 25 can be organized into a hierarchy that can be browsed by Browser entities 34”* (Delano, col.7, lines 59-61) and that *“at each level, the subtopics can be presented to the user in a weighted ranking similar to the search mechanism, or can be presented in some other optimal ordering, such as most recently added or alphabetically. Subtopics can also be considered to be content items which can be recommended at appropriate topic levels by Recommender critics”* (Delano, col.7, line 64 – col.8, line 3). Hence, Delano suggests organizing search strategies into topics and subtopics and presenting them to the user when appropriate.

Also presented in the previous Office Action, Busey et al. (US006377944B1) discloses, *“The WRU optionally performs login and authentication. By having customers identify themselves with a login name and a password, if required, past records of customer sessions can be retrieved, customer records can be updated, a past session can be resumed, etc. The customer identification can also be used to provide different levels of service at either the WRU or WebACD based on premium or preferred customers. The WRU supports authentication via a central database and can use other databases, if desired. Web Center installations not requiring login by customers can poll customers for information. As an example, such identification information can include a customer's name, company and email address”* (Busey, col.11, lines 8-20). Hence, Busey teaches of the customer (i.e., Applicants' user) supplying (i.e., Applicants' providing) the

customer's identification (i.e., Applicants' user access level) to the WRU or WebACD (i.e., Applicants' application service provider); and based on whether the customer's access level is premium or preferred (i.e., Applicants' multiple hierarchical levels of access) the appropriate level of service is rendered. In addition, Busey teaches of the customer's identification information can include the customer's name (i.e., Applicants' third level access identifying a particular individual), company (i.e., Applicants' first level access identifying an individual company), or email address (i.e., Applicants' user access level indicating multiple hierarchical levels of access) as argued by the Applicants *"Further, as described at p. 12, lines 11-24, an exemplary access level scheme includes three levels, the first level identifies an individual company of an individual subsidiary, the second level may identify a department within that company or subsidiary and the third level identifies a particular individual"* (Remarks, pg.18, para.3). Also presented in the previous Office Action, Kalpio et al. (US006343323B1) discloses, *"the ISB is a software server platform which centralizes the logistic services on behalf of other content services. These logistic services include, without limitation, client identification and authentication, access control to the network resources, unified billing interface and client identification delivery for service customization"* (Kalpio, col.2, lines 8-13). In addition, according to Kalpio, *"the header is used to inform the intermediate node about billing information associated with a resource which can be purchased through a public connection network, e.g. the Internet, and which is intended to be intercepted by the intermediate node and to be redirected to a third node (the 'ISB') managing the actual billing"* (Kalpio, col.4, lines 10-15). Hence, Kalpio teaches of an ISB software server platform that is responsible for collecting billing information from separate services and consolidating them into a unified bill and delivering to the user.

However, the prior arts of record fail to teach or suggest individually or in combination as stated in the independent claims for *“providing said application service provider with a user access level that includes first, second and third sections, each section indicating a different hierarchical level levels of access, wherein said first section indicates a business entity, said second section indicates a department, and said third section indicates an individual;”* and in combination with other limitations as set forth in the independent claims, as well as Applicants' arguments presented on pages 18-22 of the Amendment filed on October 31, 2007. In the fore mentioned amendment, the Applicants argued, *“Busey, however, fails to teach or suggest using “a user access level that includes first, second and third sections, each section indicating a different hierarchical level of access, wherein said first section indicates a business entity, said second section indicates a department, and said third section indicates an individual” as recited in the amended independent claims.”* (pg.20, lines 4-8).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Duong whose telephone number is 571/272-3911. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM - 4:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason D. Cardone can be reached on 571/272-3933. The fax phone numbers for the organization where

Art Unit: 2145

this application or proceeding is assigned are 571/273-8300 for regular communications and 571/273-8300 for After Final communications.

Thomas Duong (AU2145)

February 14, 2008

/Jason D Cardone/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2145